

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 8591

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UN GQ

SUBJ: ECUADOR'S VOTE ON GUMA RESOLUTION

REF: STATE 295625

1. ON MY INSTRUCTIONS THE NAVAL ATTACHE AND POLITICAL COUNSELOR SPOKE TODAY TO CAPT. HUGO GARCES, THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF ADMINISTRATION, I.E. THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR THE SUPREME COUNCIL. HE POINTED OUT TO HIM THAT, IN SPITE OF MY REPRESENTATIONS TO THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS CONCERNING THE ANTI-US. GUAM RESOLUTION ECUADOR HAD CAST ITS VOTE IN FAVOR IN BOTH THE COMMITTEE AND THE FULL ASSEMBLY. THE ATTACHE OBSERVED THAT THE AMBASSADOR WAS DEEPLY HURT BY THIS ACT, WHICH CONTRADICTED THE OFT- STATED POSITION OF THE CURRENT REGIME THAT IT WANTED CLOSER RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. HE POINTED OUT THAT NO INTEREST OF ECUADOR WAS INVOLVED IN THE ISSUE AND THEREFORE THERE DID NOT SEEM TO BE ANY RATIONALE FOR THE VOTE. CAPT. GARCES WAS VISIBLY ANGERED OVER THIS NEWS. HE REMARKED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY SIMPLY DID NOT UNDERSTAND HOW TO CARRY OUT ECUADOR'S NATIONAL INTERESTS. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD BRING THIS TO THE ATTENTION OF ADMIRAL POVEDA IMMEDIATELY AND INTENDED TO RECOMMEND THAT THERE BE SOME PERSONNEL CHANGES IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, AND REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO THEIR U.N. AMBASSADOR.

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2. PREVIOUSLY, THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR QUERIED AMB.

RUALES, THE HEAD OF POLITICAL MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, WHY ECUADOR HAD VOTED AS IT HAD. RUALES SEEMED TO BE TAKEN ABACK BY THE NEWS, COULD OFFER NO EXPLANATION, AND SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO IT.

3. CONCINCIDENTALLY, I WAS CALLED IN BY THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE THIS AFTERNOON, WHO ASKED MY HELP ON SPEEDING UP SOME ORDERS FOR MILITARY HARDWARE. AT THE END OF OUR DISCUSSION, I BLUNTLY TOLD HIM, AND THE ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT, THE MY JOB OF ATTEMPTING TO ASSIST THE ECUADOREAN ARMY OBTAIN NEEDED EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING WAS NOT HELPED BY SUCH ACTIONS AS ECUADOR'S VOTE ON THE GUAM ISSUE. NEITHER, OF COURSE, HAD HEARD OF THE GUAM MATTER AND BOTH WERE VISIBLY SHAKEN BY THE NEWS. THEY EXPRESSED CHAGRIN AND PLEADED WITH ME THAT IN THE FUTURE I SHOULD BRING VOTES OF THIS KIND TO THE ATTENTION OF THE MILITARY BEFOREHAND SO THAT THEY COULD "INFLUENCE THE POSITION OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY".

4. COMMENT: I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IS GOING TO FEEL SOME HEAT AS A RESULT OF THIS AFFAIR. IT MAY BE THAT THEY WILL RESENT MY HAVING SICKED THE MILITARY ON THEM. FRANKLY, I DON'T CARE. MOST OF WHAT WE NEED TO PROTECT OUR INTERESTS IN THIS COUNTRY COMES FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE GOVERNMENT. ABOUT THE ONLY THING THAT WE WANT FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ARE SOME FRIENDLY VOTES IN MULTILATERAL FORA. IF THEY CAN'T PRODUCE THOSE, THEN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE MINISTRY AND THE EMBASSY MIGHT AS WELL BE STRAINED.

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